



## Connecticut Department of Public Health

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### Testimony Presented to the Program Review and Investigations Committee

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Good morning, Senator Fonfara, Representative Carpino, Senator Kissel, Representative Mushinsky and other distinguished members of the Program Review and Investigations Committee. My name is Wendy Furniss and I am Chief of the Healthcare Quality and Safety Branch of the Department of Public Health. I am here to present the agency's perspective on the Program Review and Investigations Committee study regarding long-term services and supports (LTSS) in the community.

In considering what type of long-term care services are appropriate, the Department focuses primarily on the characteristics of the individual and what services are currently available in the community. A majority of older adults and people with disabilities can successfully manage their care in the community with support services.

One method for assessing functional ability is to observe a person's ADL and IADL needs. Activities of daily living (ADLs) include feeding, toileting and movement such as transferring oneself from a chair to an upright, standing position. Instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs) include chores such as laundry, grocery shopping and banking. If the individual has multiple ADL or IADL needs and/or cognitive disabilities, then more support is required. This generally means that in-home community services are necessary.

Community and home care services are relatively abundant in Connecticut, but can be costly. If the individual has an informal caregiver, such as a family member, then home care can be supplemented and the costs for services can be lowered. When an individual has modest or low income and assets, they could qualify for public assistance. Programs such as Money Follows the Person evaluate these factors in an attempt to meet the individual's needs in the community. In addition, other home and community-based programs implemented by the Department of Social Services are providing the necessary supports to give individuals the choice to transition to, or remain, in the community. What is paramount is that the individual be given the choice as to where they will receive their care.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's thoughts on the long-term services and supports in the community study. If you have any questions, I will be happy to answer them.